

# Pastor's Corner

My Brothers and Sisters,

I write this on Thursday. Today marks the beginning of my celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by myself. I bring you and your prayers with me every day. I know this is a particularly difficult time for you, who hunger for Our Lord as the Bread of Life. I pray that we can soon return to public Masses. I will be maintaining the regular schedule of Masses throughout the week. So tonight at 7:00pm Mass will be in Spanish. Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Spouse of Mary. I am praying for His intercession on all of us, and particularly Fathers and anyone who has him as their patron. Please call into the Office for particular concerns and petitions you want me to be conscious of during Mass. I suspect in a new way I will be made aware of my main identity as Priest; called to offer sacrifice for God's people in season and out.

Please continue to pray for each other, take care of yourselves, and take care of others as circumstances allow.

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This is a Lent unprecedented in our life-times. Public Masses are being suspended throughout the world, not because of persecution (which DOES take place), but for the safety and health of everyone.

Many people have been pointing out that the root word for "Quarantine" is the Latin word for "forty." So in a sense, Lent has always been about taking a retreat, quarantining oneself from the regular things that preoccupy us, to spend time in closer relationship to God. In a sense, this is a REALLY Lenten Lent. And we suspect it will continue beyond this Holy Season.

Please check [archindy.org](http://archindy.org) for links to directives we have been given regarding closing the parishes (churches) and chapels for the near future.

Please contact our office at 317-546-4065 if you need me for Confession, Anointing of the Sick, or water to be blessed. I am still working out how and where to maintain regular hours for Confession. I am thinking about being available in the Parish Office. I have put the Holy Water Container on the front porch of the Parish Office where it is easily available. Please bring a container. Our website [www.saintlawrence.net](http://www.saintlawrence.net) and our weekly bulletin are being updated continuously. Our bulletin is available in plastic bins located by the church and parish office doors or find it online on our website or at:

[discovermass.com/church/st-lawrence-indianapolis-in/](http://discovermass.com/church/st-lawrence-indianapolis-in/)

What can we do at this time? We can set aside more time at home to pray. We can read the readings of the day, and for the Sunday Mass, and share with family time of reflection. There are many resources available. Our Parish has subscribed to the FORMED internet site, which has many free videos and audio talks to offer. Visit [saintlawrence.formed.org](http://saintlawrence.formed.org) One resource is a daily reflection by Bishop Robert Barron. It is found at: <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel> - and then hit the button to subscribe (for free) in English or Spanish. There are a lot of articles coming out with advice on how to use this time. One I just read is at: <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2020/03/im-a-nun-and-ive-been-social-distancing-for-29-years-here-are-tips-for-staying-home-amid-coronavirus-fears.html>.

This common-sense advice includes:

First, you need to establish structure.

"Your normal day-to-day lives have structure imposed on them from the outside...Now that you are stuck at home, create a schedule for yourself and your family...This might take some experimentation..."

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Second, be intentional and love others.

“...Call older people in your neighborhood and ask how they are doing, if they need anything. Give the gift of your time...Don't hide from roommates under the guise of needing to work...”

Third, use this time for self-reflection and relaxation.

“I need a vacation to recover from my vacation!” people say. Well, this could be it....”

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This weekend is Rose Sunday. It marks that we are over ½-way through this Holy Season, preparing us for the Holy Season of Easter. The six Sunday gospel passages in Lent each give us a glimpse of the types of experiences where we encounter Our Lord.

The first Sunday dealt with the experiences of Deserts and Temptations; where Jesus is encountered in our acts of discipline and in our times of temptation.

Next, Jesus is revealed in Mountaintop experiences.

Last week: we met Him in isolation, (sometimes self-imposed) and loneliness.

This Week, the blind man's encounter with Christ is in the midst of his limitations, his blindness, and his healing. It included meeting Christ in persecution of his growing faith.

The Fifth Sunday, with the Raising of Lazarus, reminds us that we encounter Christ in our friendship with Him, in our grief, and when He raises us from our entombments.

Palm Sunday we enter into all the different ways we walk with Him His Passion for our salvation.

I conclude with a prayer many people who are unable to receive the Blessed Sacrament use – often daily:

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

*Fr. Tom*